GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1686
ANSWERED ON:08.03.2016
Use of Drones
Patole Shri Nanabhau Falgunrao

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to take the help of drones to monitor the loss of crops;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the time limit for acquiring the drones;

(c) whether the use of drones will facilitate immediate assessment of damage to crops and immediate release of compensation to the farmers including crop insurance scheme to be implemented from June 2016;

(d) the details regarding the time limit for implementation of the Kisan pilot project in the country; and

(e) the details of setting up of the proposed Mahalanobis National Crop Forecast Centre and the time limit set for setting up of the same?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

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(a) to (d): The new Crop Insurance Scheme - Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) provides for use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV)/Drone technology for quick estimation of crop losses and early settlement of claims under crop insurance schemes. Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare has launched a pilot project called KISAN [C(K)rop Insurance using Space Technology And geoiNformatics] under which it is planned to use drone imaging services for better assessment of crop condition and crop losses/yield in conjunction with ground observation and satellite data in Rabi 2015-16 season. KISAN project is approved for the year 2015-16 (i.e. during Kharif 2015 and Rabi 2015-16).

Since there are no definite guidelines developed by Directorate General of Civil Aviation on use of UAV/Drone, Government has consulted some experts/institutions for availability of UAV/Drone.

(e): To provide in-season crop forecasts and assessment of drought situation using state of the art techniques and methodologies developed by Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), Mahalanobis National Crop Forecast Centre (MNCFC) was established/inaugurated on 23rd April, 2012 as an attached office of Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare.

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